

(Draft Awaiting Approval)  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**COMMISSION FOR THE STEWARDSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS**  
Thursday, July 16, 2015 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 450 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. David P. Hinkins, Chair  
Rep. Keven J. Stratton, Chair  
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins  
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe  
Rep. Melvin R. Brown  
Rep. Ken Ivory  
Rep. Michael E. Noel

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Jim Dabakis

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Tiffany A. Stanley, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Cathy J. Dupont, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. RuthAnne Frost, Associate General Counsel  
Mr. Timothy J. Barber, Legislative Assistant  
Mr. Josh Weber, Legislative Assistant

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Commission Business**

Chair Hinkins called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.

**MOTION:** Sen. Jenkins moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2015 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Utah Public Land Policy Management Act**

Rep. Noel discussed potential legislation on the management of Utah's public lands.

Mr. Martin Bushman, Assistant Attorney General, Division of Wildlife Resources, Department of Natural Resources, and Mr. Mike Johnson, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, Department of Natural Resources, discussed the potential legislation and ways that the department could be involved in the development of the legislation.

The commission discussed creating working groups to look at issues to be addressed in the event of a public lands transfer, including potential grazing, mineral rights, and recreation uses.

Mr. Steve Erickson, Utah Audubon Council Legislative Advocate, discussed the possibility of creating a state version of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

**3. Carbon Sequestration**

Mr. Steven Rich, President, Rangeland Restoration Academy, and Mr. Sheldon Kinsel, Director of Communications, Rangeland Restoration Academy, presented "Statement of Steven Rich and Sheldon Kinsel: Utah Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands." They explained that climate change can be mitigated through carbon sequestration, which is a process that removes atmospheric carbon and sequesters it in the soil through specific land management policies, including effective livestock grazing practices.

Under the direction of Chair Hinkins, the commission watched a Technology, Education, and Design (TED) talk, “How to Fight Desertification and Reverse Climate Change.” The TED talk featured Allan Savory discussing global desertification and how using livestock can help to restore land.

#### **4. Recent National Monument Designations**

Mr. Cody Stewart, Policy Director and Energy Advisor, Governor’s Office, presented “National Monuments: A Brief History & Possible Implications for Utah.”

Mr. Stewart and the commission discussed the possibility of future national monument designations within the state and potential avenues for recourse.

#### **5. Recapture Canyon ATV Ride**

Rep. Noel updated the commission on the status of the San Juan County Commissioner’s legal dispute regarding the location of an ATV ride and also dual sovereignty as it relates to public lands. The commission also discussed the possibility of the state pursuing RS 2477 litigation in regard to the road in question.

#### **6. Waters of the United States**

**MOTION:** Rep. Brown moved to place this item on the commission’s next meeting agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **7. Other Commission Business/Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Ivory moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee adjourned at 12:10 p.m.